

## DRONE NATIONS

US monopoly on drones is past; 70 countries own unmanned aircraft  
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## OVERALL INFLATION EASES

But non-food inflation up in Sept as living cost rising  
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## AN EVEN BOUT

Messi and Ronaldo strike twice in a 2-2 drawn El Clasico  
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## SONALI LOAN SCAM

# Hall-Mark MD arrested after daylong drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Mahmud, managing director of Hall-Mark Group, and another top official of the controversial firm, were nabbed by the Rapid Action Battalion last night in the capital's Pallabi in connection with the Sonali Bank loan scam.

The other official is Tushar Ahmed, general manager (commercial), also husband of Tanvir's sister-in-law. "We arrested them around 9:30pm from a house at Section-6 of Mirpur," Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, Rab's intelligence wing director, told The Daily Star.

Tanvir was hiding in a flat owned by one Shamsuddin Doha, a relative of Tanvir, he said. Rab's media and legal wing Director Capt M Sohail said the force had also recovered a foreign pistol, four bullets and a magazine from Tanvir's possession.

It could not be immediately confirmed whether the gun was licensed.

Rab said it would hand over the duo to the Anti-



Tanvir Mahmud

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West Indies players celebrate with the World T20 trophy after defeating hosts Sri Lanka in an absorbing final by 36 runs at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Glory for the West Indies

SPORTS REPORTER

It was an historic day for West Indies cricket as the Caribbean side, thanks largely to an astonishing lone hand by Marlon Samuels, overcame the home team Sri Lanka by 36 runs to win the ICC World Twenty20 at the R Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The final was billed as the battle between West Indies' flair and Sri Lanka's discipline, but when it came to their on-field displays it was the men from the Caribbean who displayed the stronger discipline, as they wore down Sri Lanka's formidable batting line-up with sharp fielding and incisive bowling, particularly by mystery

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For Latest Cricket Update Dial 2002

## Graft stalls railway recruitment

4 attempts fail in last 6 years due to legal tangles over 'bribery, anomalies'

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Every attempt by the railway authorities over the last six years to hire people has been marred by legal knots over allegations of corruptions and irregularities in the recruitment process.

Between 2006 and 2011, Bangladesh Railway made four moves to appoint some 16,000 staff members at various levels to ease its manpower shortage, but all in vain.

As a result, this cheapest mode of transport is now running with only half the

manpower it needs, which is seriously hampering its services.

Currently, the railway has around 17,000 vacant posts, including for locomasters, station masters, trolley men, cleaners and guards.

In cases of all the four large-scale hiring processes, the authorities did not follow due course of selecting candidates based on merit. They rather selected candidates in exchange for money, railway officials say.

Syndicates of politicians, railway officials

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## SPEAKER'S RULING Govt denied permission to appeal

SC to make some observations in full text later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refused the government permission to appeal against the High Court verdict that said the Speaker's ruling on an HC judge had no legal effect.

The apex court, however, made some observations that could not yet be

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## PM VISITS TODAY

# No festivity in Ramu this time

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, from Ramu, Cox's Bazar

A visit by the head of government is usually something to be celebrated in Ramu of Cox's Bazar. The people there see their prime minister once in a decade or so. Sheikh Hasina visits the upazila today but there is no celebration this time around.

Preparations for her visit were on at full swing yesterday. The roads she would use had been patched up and the places she would visit

cleaned. There were rehearsals by security personnel and other last-minute preparations.

Everything was being taken care of. The only thing missing was the festive mood.

Local citizens, while reminiscing, told The Daily Star that they had never cared who visited them, Sheikh Hasina or Khaleda Zia; they were always more excited just seeing the prime minister, the head of their government.

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## ATTACKS ON TEMPLES

# Truck driver names five

Tells court he was 'forced to drive' to Ramu on Sept 29

STAR REPORT

An assistant to a trucker, arrested in connection with the Ramu violence, told a magistrate in Chittagong yesterday that five people had forced him to drive a mob to Ramu on September 29.

A team of Cox's Bazar police arrested helper-turned-driver Ramzan Ali of south Rajarkul in Ramu at Sitakunda in Chittagong Friday.

Police produced him before the court

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As the ban on catching hilsa has ended, fishermen have begun bringing in their catch from the Bay to the wholesale market in Fisharyghat of Chittagong. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## SURANJIT'S RAILWAYGATE LINK Driver Azam's statement won't lead to ACC probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will not take into account the statements of whistleblower driver Azam Khan regarding the April 9 cash haul in a recent TV interview, said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday.

So, based on his remarks the anti-graft body would not reinvestigate the then railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's alleged involvement in the scandal, he added.

When told that Azam's statement had made it clear that Suranjit had been involved in the scandal, he said, "If that was the case, all issues could be handled according to what a driver or chaprashi (orderly) said."

Azam told Rtv in the interview aired Thursday night and throughout Friday that the money, found in the microbus he had pulled over at the Pilkhana headquarters of Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB), was being taken to Suranjit's house.

The driver of Suranjit's ex-assistant personal secretary (APS) Omar Faruq Talukder around 11:30pm on April 9 drove Faruq's microbus into Pilkhana and blew the whistle that there was illegal money in the vehicle.

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## PADMA BRIDGE Muhith to talk to WB experts team in Tokyo

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said he would join a meeting in Tokyo with a World Bank international panel of experts on the issue of WB funding for the Padma bridge project.

An investigation into the graft allegations brought by the global lender in the project and its implementation would proceed simultaneously, he added. The team of experts is likely to come to Dhaka this month.

"The WB financing of the Padma bridge project is dependent on the report of its international panel of experts," Muhith told reporters at his office in the capital.

He said he was

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## 3 injured in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot and injured three Bangladeshi nationals near Chakpara border of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The injured are -- Setabul Islam, 45, and Abu Sayem, 30, -- sons of late Elias Uddin, and Saidur Rahman, 32, son of Farzen

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## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

# Azad to be tried in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday decided to hold the trial of war crimes accused

Abul Kalam Azad in absentia for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.



The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, decided this as expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, did not appear before it even after publication of newspaper advertisements asking him to do so.

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## Defence trying to delay trial proceedings

Tribunal observes in Sayedee's case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq in an order yesterday said the failure of war crimes accused Delawar Hossain Sayedee's defence to produce witnesses was hampering the trial.

He also said the defence were trying to

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